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PAGE 01 CANBER 02812 230747Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AF-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	/055W	
				-----49CBF3 230748Z /38			

P 230747Z MAY 94
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4410
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA/J5//
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PERTH

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UN, RW, AS
SUBJECT: RWANDA PEACEKEEPING - AUSTRALIA ON THE FENCE

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PAGE 02 CANBER 02812 230747Z
REF: A) CANBERRA 2754, B) CANBERRA 2654,
- C) CANBERRA 2592

1. SUMMARY: AN AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON HAS REFUTED A U.N. STATEMENT THAT THE GOA HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO SENDING TROOPS TO RWANDA. END SUMMARY.
2. FOLLOWING A NEW YORK REPORT QUOTING U.N. SPOKESPERSON FRED ECKHARD TO THE EFFECT THAT 12 COUNTRIES (AUSTRALIA

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AMONG THEM) HAD AGREED TO SEND MILITARY RESOURCES TO RWANDA, A SPOKESPERSON FOR FOREIGN MINISTER GARETH EVANS SAID IN CANBERRA ON MAY 20 THAT NO SUCH COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE. THE SPOKESPERSON ADDED THAT THE GOA WAS STILL CONSIDERING WHAT ITS RESPONSE WOULD BE.

3. COMMENT: REF A NOTED THAT THE FOMIN'S INITIAL PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON RWANDA CONDITIONED A FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON THE U.N. HAVING MET CERTAIN CRITERIA CONCERNING THE DESIGN, COMMITMENT AND OBJECTIVES OF ANY MULTILATERAL MILITARY OPERATION IN RWANDA. AT THIS POINT, THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE GOA CONSIDERS THOSE CRITERIA TO HAVE BEEN MET.

4. IN FACT, ONE PRESS REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (ADOD) IS HARDENING OPPOSITION TO A RWANDA DEPLOYMENT. SPECIFICALLY, DEFMIN ROBERT RAY IS SAID TO BE ARGUING THAT NO TROOPS SHOULD BE SENT UNLESS THE U.N. CAN BROKER A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS SINCE THE ACTION IN SOMALIA. THE CABINET IS
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PAGE 03 CANBER 02812 230747Z
SCHEDULED TO REVIEW THE U.N.'S REQUEST THIS WEEK. PERKINS

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